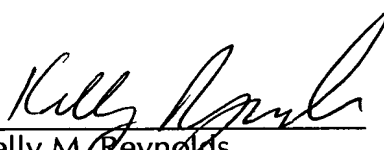


and distinct" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that a search of the subject matter of Group I, claims 1-23, drawn to a process, would necessarily require a search of the subject matter of Group II, claims 24-29, which are drawn to a semiconductor structure. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that a search pertaining to one of the above-identified groups would necessarily encompass subject matter of the other group and separate searches for each group would be unwarranted and duplicative. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement and an action on the merits of all the claims are respectfully requested.

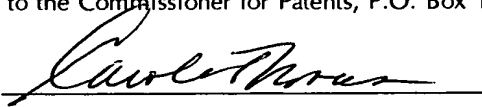
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Name: Carol M. Thomas Date: October 4, 2004 Signature: 
nove100020000respresreq